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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Southern Region

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

Facts and Figures

83 1881

1983

SOUTHFORNET
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Item # 17

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Dear Friend,

The following pages contain a vast assortment of facts and figures on Georgia's two National Forests, the Chattahoochee and Oconee.

This material is organized so that you can follow the table of contents and turn directly to the topic in which you're interested. I'll be glad to answer questions or help to obtain further information on any of these topics.

I appreciate your past interest and fairness in reporting on the sometimes complicated and emotion-laden area of natural resource management on the National Forests. I look forward to working with you in 1983.

Karen Wheeless

Karen Wheeless
Public Affairs Officer

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Forest Resources

Timber
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Transportation
Air Quality

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Range

Human Resources

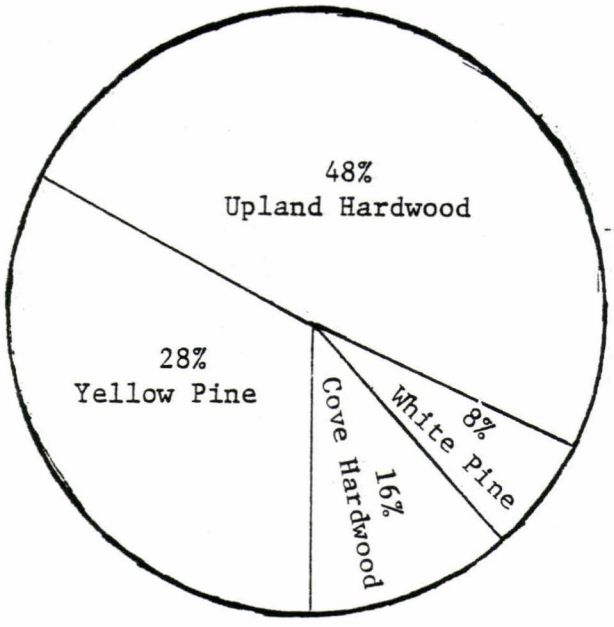
Timber

The primary mission of timber management is to "develop and promote programs that meet the Nation's need for timber now and in the future." Timber management programs include timber stand improvement, harvesting, and regeneration.

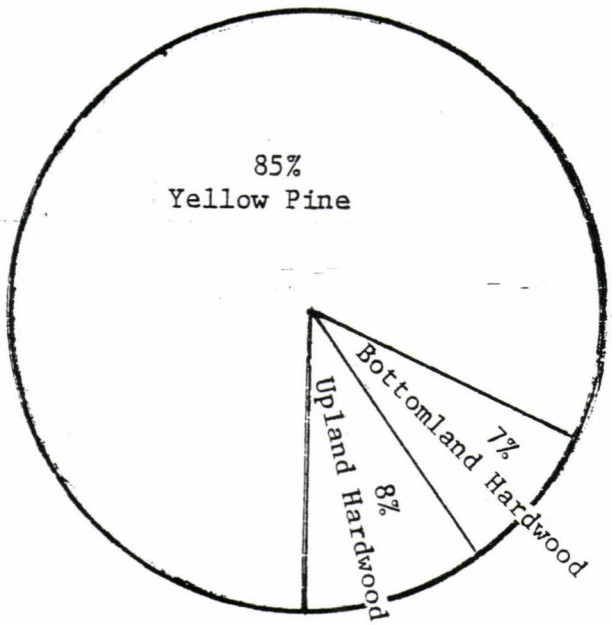
The Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests rank ninth in timber sales volume out of fifteen National Forest units in the Southern Region. For fiscal year 1982, the forests sold 47,305,650 board feet of timber.

The Oconee is mostly a yellow pine forest with excellent growing conditions and good road access. Only 15% of the Oconee is in upland or bottomland hardwoods.

The Chattahoochee is approximately two-thirds cove and upland hardwoods and one-third yellow and white pine.



Chattahoochee

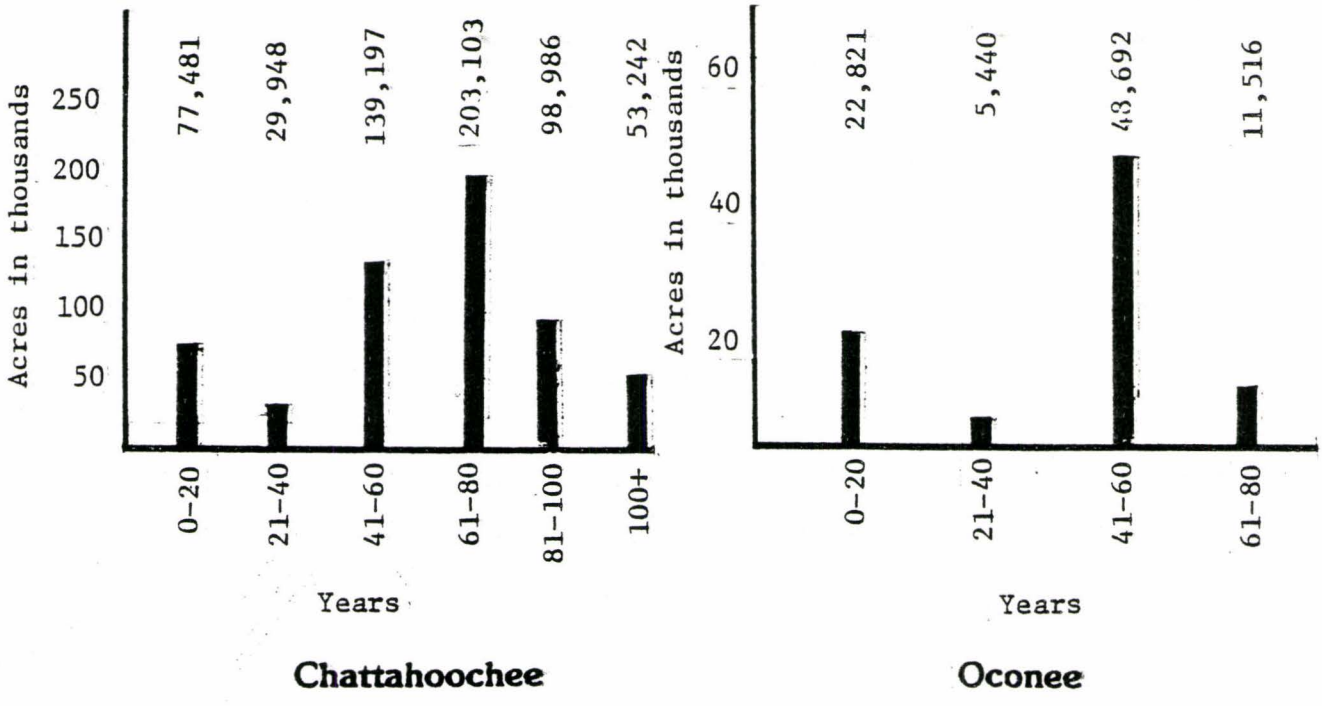


Oconee

Approximately 10% of the Chattahoochee and 3% of the Oconee are classified as unsuitable for timber production.

Total National Forest acreage:	856,049
Water	1,826
Non-forest	1,526
Forest:	849,697
Non-productive	803
Reserved	50,779
Deferred	20,033
Available for timber growth:	778,082

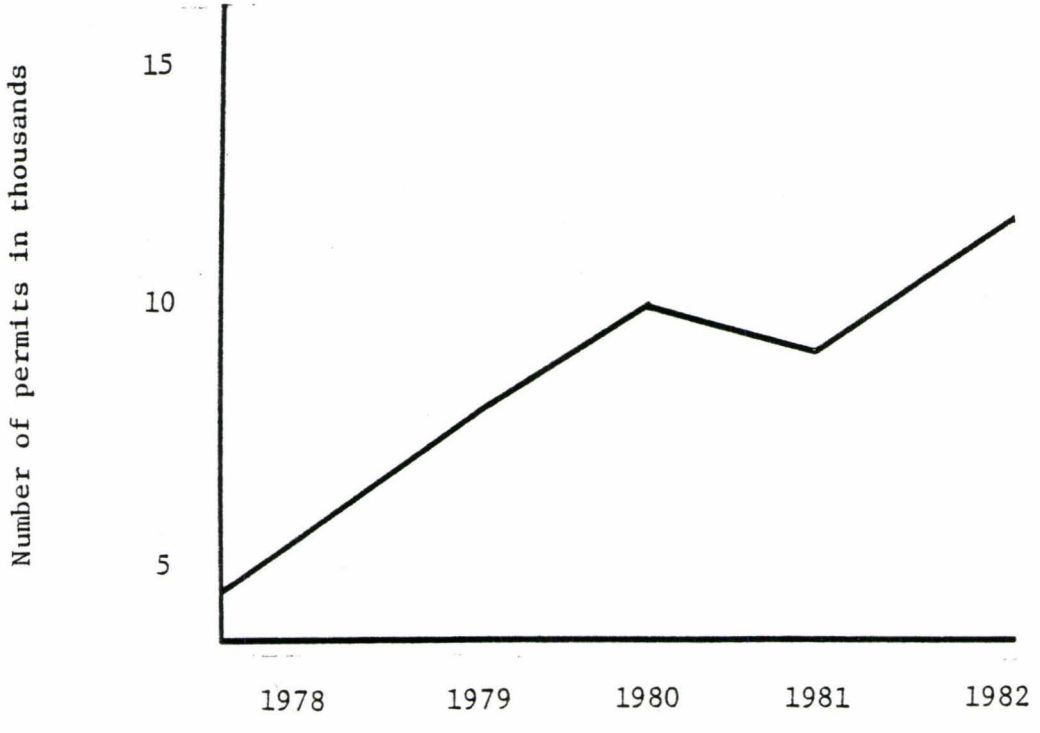
Both forests have an unbalanced age structure because of practices on the land before it became National Forest.



Fuelwood

The fuelwood program is popular with the public because it provides free fuelwood to those who obtain a permit and are willing to cut their own wood.

Demand for free-use fuelwood has more than doubled since 1977; 12,157 free-use permits were issued in fiscal year 1982



Forest planners expect demand to continue rising for free-use fuelwood although not at as rapid a rate.

Transportation

Engineering provides the technical support required for timber and other resource activities. This support includes analysis and evaluation of transportation systems planning; road survey; design, construction, and maintenance of bridges; maintenance and management of forest transportation systems and the forest fleet; and contract administration of public works and timber sale contracts.

The Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests contain 1,293 miles of system roads. Most of these roads were originally built for timber access. These roads also serve many other purposes including recreation, hunting, fishing, and fire control.

Chattahoochee	1,022 miles
Oconee	271 miles

There are approximately 391 miles of trails on the forests.

Air Quality

The objective of the Forest Service air quality management program is to protect and maintain air quality while achieving land and resource goals.

Air quality is generally good on both the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests. Problems are infrequent and usually localized and short-term in nature.

Except for the two wilderness areas, the forests are Class II for air standards. The wilderness areas are Class I.

Prescribed burning is the only Forest Service activity that affects air quality. All prescribed burns are in compliance with state air quality regulations.

Recreation

Recreation management activities on the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests are aimed at enhancing the quality of experience for recreation users.

There are 34 developed recreation sites on the Chattahoochee-Oconee. These range from roadside overlooks and picnic areas to sites that offer swimming, boating, picnicking, and camping. These areas are:

Chattahoochee

Andrews Cove Campground
Anna Ruby Falls Visitor Center
Barnes Creek Picnic Area
Brasstown Bald Visitor Center
Chestatee Overlook
Cooper Creek Campground
Deep Hole Campground
DeSoto Falls Campground
Dockery Lake Campground
Fern Springs Picnic Area
Frank Gross Campground
Hidden Creek Campground
Keown Falls Picnic Area
Lake Blue Ridge Campground
Lake Chatuge Campground
Lake Conasauga Campground
Lake Russell Campground
Lake Winfield Scott Campground
Morganton Point Campground
Mulky Campground
Panther Creek Picnic Area
Pocket Campground
Rabun Beach Campground
Tallulah River Campground
Tate Branch Campground
Warwoman Dell Picnic Area
Waters Creek Campground
Woody Gap Picnic Area

Oconee

Hillsboro Lake Picnic Area
Lake Oconee:
  Redlands Boat Ramp
  Swords Boat Ramp
Lake Sinclair Campground
Oconee River Campground
Scull Shoals Historical Area

Special areas on the forests that have been Congressionally or administratively classified to protect their unique features are:

Cohutta	Wilderness
Ellicott Rock	Wilderness
Chattooga River	Wild and Scenic River
Blood Mountain	Archaeological
Scull Shoals	Archaeological/Historical
Track Rock Gap	Archaeological
Anna Ruby Falls	Scenic
Coleman River	Scenic
Cooper Creek	Scenic
DeSoto Falls	Scenic
High Shoals Falls	Scenic
Keown Falls	Scenic
Raven Cliffs	Scenic
Sosebee Cove	Scenic
Appalachian Trail	National Scenic Trail

Anna Ruby Trail	National Recreation Trail
Arkaquah Trail	National Recreation Trail
Bartram Trail	National Recreation Trail
Jacks Knob Trail	National Recreation Trail
Duncan Ridge Trail	National Recreation Trail

Dispersed recreation use constitutes the greatest proportion of recreation use on the forests. Approximately 80% of the forests' recreation use comes from dispersed, primitive activities such as camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, and sightseeing.

Brasstown Bald, Georgia's highest point at 4,784 feet, is a major interpretive complex on the Chattahoochee National Forest. It was visited by approximately 60,000 people from across the United States and Europe during 1982.

Wilderness

In recognizing the need to preserve wilderness in the United States, Congress has established a National Wilderness Preservation System. The Forest Service manages Congressionally designated wilderness areas in a way that leaves the area unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as a wilderness. Practically, this means that there is no timber harvested in wilderness, no motorized vehicles, and no manipulation of wildlife habitat. Wilderness can be used for hunting, fishing, and other forms of recreation which do not involve motorized vehicles.

Two wilderness areas currently exist on the Chattahoochee National Forest. They are:

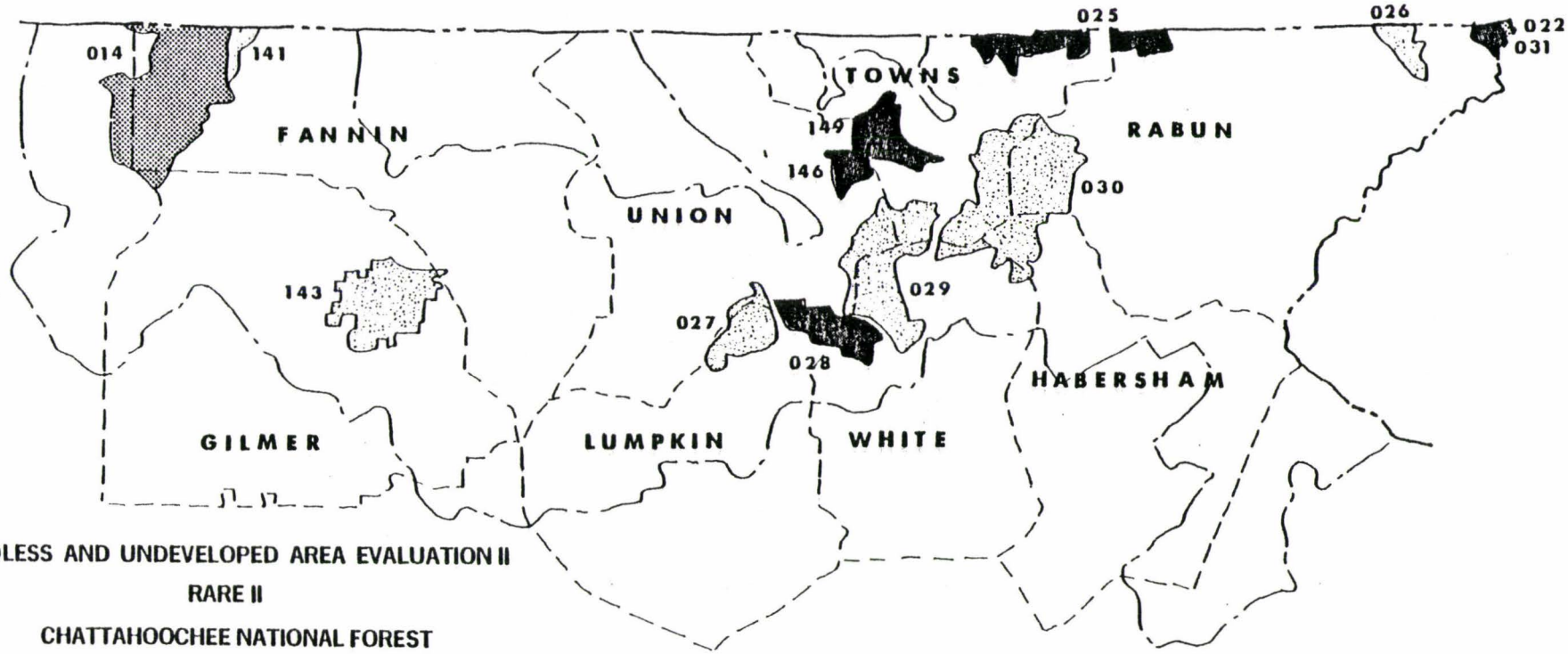
Cohutta	32,307 acres
Ellicott Rock	181 acres

Five areas were recommended to Congress in 1979 as a result of RARE II. No action has been taken on this wilderness proposal. These areas are:

Southern Nantahala	14,570 acres
Ellicott Rock Extension	3,100 acres
Raven Cliffs	9,300 acres
Brasstown	4,820 acres
Wolfpen	7,850 acres

Six areas were designated for "further study" as a result of RARE II. Whether these areas will be recommended to Congress for inclusion in the wilderness system will be decided as part of the forests' ongoing land management planning effort. These areas are:

Overflow	4,600 acres
Hemptop	2,800 acres
Rich Mountain	16,880 acres
Blood Mountain	10,275 acres
Chattahoochee River	23,050 acres
Tray Mountain	36,300 acres



ROADLESS AND UNDEVELOPED AREA EVALUATION II

RARE II

CHATTAHOOCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

EXISTING WILDERNESS

014	Cohutta
022	Ellicott Rock

PROPOSED WILDERNESS

025	Southern Nantahala
028	Raven Cliff
031	Ellicott Rock Addition
146	Brasstown
149	Wolf Pen

FURTHER PLANNING

026	Overflow
027	Blood Mountain
029	Chattahoochee River
030	Tray Mountain
141	Hemp Top
143	Rich Mountain

Scenic Values

The Forest Service is dedicated to managing all National Forest lands so as to attain the highest possible visual quality commensurate with other appropriate public uses, costs, and benefits.

Many visitors are attracted to the Chattahoochee National Forest because of its scenic mountain vistas and tumbling waterfalls. The public is sensitive to disturbances on the forest which cause major changes in the landscape.

The situation is somewhat different on the Piedmont terrain of the Oconee National Forest. Generally, this area has the capability of absorbing management activities into the naturally established characteristics of the landscape.

Visual quality objectives (VQO) have been assigned to all forest lands. These categories and the acres involved are shown below.

VQO	Percentage of Chattahoochee	Percentage of Oconee
Preservation	10%	.8%
Retention	3%	.3%
Partial Retention	13%	4.1%
Modification	21%	3.6%
Maximum Modification	53%	91.2%

Cultural Resources

The Cultural Resource program of the Forest Service calls for protecting and, where appropriate, fostering public use of areas with special historical or cultural characteristics. The program consists of classifying these special areas by inventorying all the cultural resources on the National Forests.

The Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests contain cultural resources from all periods of human occupation since about 8,000 BC.

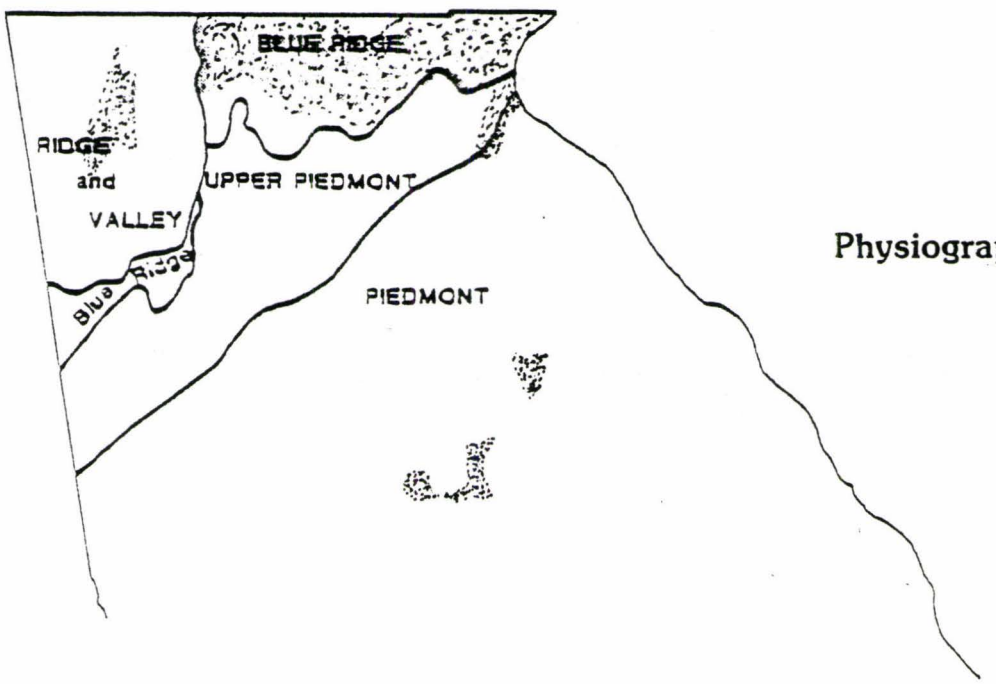
Known cultural resources on the forests include the Wallace Reservoir, Scull Shoals. Hickory Flat Community, Unicoi and Logan Turnpikes, Warwoman Dell and the Black Mountain Railroad Workings, Dug Gap Confederate Breastworks, Walker Lime Kiln, Track Rock Gap and Hickory Mountain Track Rock sites, Soapstone Bowl Quarry, Blood Mountain, and the Drop Zone and Bottom Archaic sites.

About 8% of the forests have been examined for cultural resources through 1982. Until both forests can be entirely surveyed, forest archeologists are concentrating their cultural resource inventories on areas in which land-disturbing activities or exchanges are proposed.

Soil/Water

The Forest soil scientists and hydrologist work with other forest disciplines to establish and enforce guidelines to protect streams and lakes from detrimental impacts due to timber management, road construction, recreation use and other practices.

There are four physiographic provinces, also called Drainage Basin Response Unit Groups (DBRU's), used for administrative purposes on the forests. The map below shows these units.



Physiographic Provinces

Soil conditions on the Chattahoochee National Forest are generally good, with most problems of a localized nature. Problems include recreation overuse, off-road vehicle use, and woods roads.

The Oconee National Forest is still in the process of recovering from past erosion. Deep gullies and scattered bare areas remain as a legacy of poor agricultural practices on the land before it came under federal management. Off-road vehicle damage and old woods roads further contribute to soil management difficulties.. Even with these problems, most of the Oconee's soils are stablized and productive.

The forests lie within two water resource regions: the South Atlantic-Gulf and the Tennessee. The forests contain nearly 2,200 miles of perennial streams, 272 acres of surface water on 18 lakes, and border an additional 53,327 acres of lakes. These lakes are:

Lakes on the Forests

Conasauga	17 acres
Murray	4 acres
Peeples	2 acres
Dockery	3 acres
Rock Creek	12 acres
Nancytown	10 acres
Winfield Scott	18 acres
Duckett	1 acre
Work Center	1 acre
Hillsboro	3 acres
Mt. Gilead	1 acre
Jones Creek	95 acres
Irwin	1 acre
Russell	94 acres
Toccoa Water Supply	1 acre
Clayton Water Supply	1 acre
Cartecay River #7	4 acres
Hightower #18	4 acres
	272 acres

Lakes that Border on the Forests

Blue Ridge	3,290 acres
Nottely	4,181 acres
Chatuge	6,950 acres
Burton	2,775 acres
Seed	240 acres
Rabun	834 acres
Tugaloo	597 acres
Sinclair	15,300 acres
Oconee	19,160 acres
	53,327 acres

The table below presents the acreage on the forests of wetlands, floodplains, and riparian areas:

Wetlands	116 acres	3,817 acres
Floodplains	4,864 acres	710 acres
Riparian	47,490 acres	6,215 acres

Annual average yield of surface water on the forests is approximately 2,296,000 acre-feet or roughly 2.7 feet of water from each acre of forest land. This yield is from abundant rainfall that ranges from a low of 48" yearly on the Oconee National Forest to nearly 80" yearly in part of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Surface water is the most important source of water on the forests. Ground water development is quite limited.

Current water uses on the forests, consumptive and non-consumptive, amount to 7,179 acre-feet per year. There are 237 water related special uses on the forests; 226 of which are for springs or wells to supply homes adjacent to forest land. Two of the special uses provide the total water supplies for the cities of Clayton, Toccoa, Mountain City, and Tiger. The Chattahoochee River, which originates on the Chattahoochee National Forest, supplies water to Atlanta and its metropolitan areas.

Water flowing from the forests currently meets or is better than all federal, state, or local standards for water quality.

Minerals/Energy

The objective of the Forest Service minerals program is to integrate the development and use of mineral resources with the use of all other forest resources.

There is much speculation that oil and gas exist below the Chattahoochee National Forest because of its location near the Eastern Overthrust Belt.

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests have received 247 oil and gas lease applications for the Chattahoochee National Forest. As of December 1, 1982, 111 of these leases have been approved and 136 lease applications are being processed by the Forest Service.

Of the 247 oil and gas lease applications for the Chattahoochee National Forest, 41 involve wilderness or special areas. These applications are not being processed at the present time.

The Forest Service does not own all the mineral rights to the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests. On the Chattahoochee there are 122,195 acres of outstanding or reserved mineral rights; 6,200 of these acres are in the Cohutta Wilderness. On the Oconee, there are 656 acres or outstanding or reserved mineral rights.

There is an active granite quarry of about 8 acres on the Chattahoochee National Forest.

There are 7 cases on the Oconee where minerals have been leased or lease applications have been received. Two are for about 220 acres of amethyst strip mines. The others are for about 990 acres of feldspar open pit strip mines. Of the areas leased, one prospecting permit for feldspar has been issued.

Wildlife/Fish

Wildlife management on the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests stresses a variety and abundance of wildlife species in a diverse, unpolluted, and healthy environment. Wildlife management's primary objective is to develop and maintain on National Forest lands a pattern of wildlife and fish habitats that will best meet the needs of wildlife, fish, and people; now and in the future.

Over 500 wildlife species are found on the forests. Major game species include deer, turkey, squirrel, grouse, quail, raccoon, fox, dove, woodcock, and bear. Grouse are not found on the Oconee and bear are seldom seen on the Oconee.

Wildlife habitat conditions are generally good on both forests. Hard mast, soft fruits, and den trees are usually in adequate supply. However, there is a shortage of high quality browse.

Current populations for twelve management indicator species on the forests are shown below:

Deer	20,000
Bear	280
Turkey	5,340
Grouse	6,400
Squirrel	125,000
Quail	1/40 acres
Bog turtle	10 or less
Pileated woodpecker	1/160 acres
Indigo bunting	1/40 acres
Dusky Salamander	14,000/square mile
Yellow ladyslipper	1/17 miles
Mountain pitcher plant	250

There are thirteen Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) on the forests. These encompass 47% of the land on the Chattahoochee and 20% of the land on the Oconee National Forest. These WMA's are managed in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Game and Fish Division. These WMA's are:

Blue Ridge	42,000 acres
Cedar Creek	30,000 acres
Chattahoochee	23,000 acres
Chestatee	25,000 acres
Cohutta	95,000 acres
Coleman River	11,000 acres
Cooper Creek	34,000 acres
Johns Mountain	28,000 acres
Lake Russell	17,000 acres
Rich Mountain	45,000 acres
Swallow Creek	19,000 acres
Warwoman	14,000 acres
Lake Burton	13,000 acres

Statewide hunting seasons apply on National Forest lands outside WMA's, which have special seasons. Generally, seasons are less restrictive outside the WMA's.

The Forest Service uses its wildlife management funds for habitat improvement outside WMA's. Game and Fish carry out the direct habitat improvement within WMA's.

1,367 miles of primary trout stream, plus 112 miles of secondary trout stream are on the Chattahoochee National Forest. This represents 57% of the primary and 12% of the secondary trout streams in Georgia.

On the Oconee National Forest; the Oconee, Ocmulgee, and Appalachee Rivers are important warmwater fisheries. There are 34,460 acres of lakes on or adjacent to the Oconee which also provide warmwater fishing. Bass, sunfish, and catfish are the major warmwater species.

Threatened/Endangered Species

The Forest Service protects threatened and endangered species by: (1) determining the occurrence of the plant or animal on the National Forests, (2) describing the plant or animal's critical habitat needs, and (3) prescribing management to protect those habitats.

The Research Natural Areas exist on the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests. Murder Creek RNA consists of 739 acres on the Oconee. It is one of the few undisturbed bottomland hardwood types still to be found on the Georgia Piedmont. Plott Cover RNA consists of 312 acres on the Chattahoochee. It contains an abundance of yellow-wood, butternut, and silverbell.

The Forest Service protects many threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Those within the ecosystems of the Chattahoochee or Oconee National Forests are listed below:

Wildlife Species

Common Name	Classification	Source List	Sightings on Forests
Eastern Cougar	Endangered	Federal	Yes
Indiana Bat	Endangered	Federal	Nearby
Gray Bat	Endangered	Federal	Nearby
Red Cockaded Woodpecker	Endangered	Federal	Nearby
Perigrine Falcon	Endangered	Federal	Transient
Bald Eagle	Endangered	Federal	Yes
Golden Eagle	Threatened	Federal	Transient
Common Osprey	Threatened	State	Yes
Common Raven	Sensitive	State	Yes
Northern Pine Snake	Sensitive	State	Yes
Bog Turtle	Sensitive	State	Yes
New England Cottontail	Sensitive	State	Yes
Pygmy Shrew	Sensitive	State	Yes
Southeastern Shrew	Sensitive	State	Yes

Plant Species

Persistent Trillium	Endangered	Federal	Yes
Carex	Endangered	State	Yes
Carex	Threatened	State	Yes
Pink Lady Slipper	Threatened	State	Yes
Yellow Lady Slipper	Threatened	State	Yes
Purple Cone Flower	Threatened	State	Yes
Golden Seal	Endangered	State	Yes
Twinleaf	Threatened	State	Nearby
Leavenworthia	Threatened	State	Nearby
False Pimpernel	Endangered	State	Yes
Nestronia	Threatened	State	Yes
3-Toothed Cinquefoil	Endangered	State	Yes
Oglethorpe Oak	Threatened	State	Yes
Pitcher Plant	Endangered	State	Yes
Wild Sarsparilla	Threatened	State	Yes
Large Flowered Skullcap	Threatened	State	Yes
Ragwort	Threatened	State	Yes
Oconee Bells	Endangered	State	Yes
Meadow Rue	Threatened	State	Nearby
Star Flower	Endangered	State	Yes
False Nellebore	Endangered	State	Nearby
Arrow-Wood	Endangered	State	Yes
Barren Strawberry	Threatened	State	Yes

Range

The Oconee National Forest provides forage for a fee to local cattle owners. Grazing isn't feasible on the steep slopes of the Chattahoochee National Forest. This service is provided in keeping with the objective of the Forest Service range program which is to contribute to rural economies by providing grazing for local farmers and ranchers.

About 1,600 acres are available on the Oconee National Forest for improved pasture grazing. About 1,300 of these acres are currently used for cattle grazing.

Human Resources

The Forest Service participates in human resource programs to provide a pool of laborers capable of accomplishing the work of the Forest Service. The Forest Service uses the tools of modern management to enhance the quality of work life and benefit both human and natural resources.

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests employed 196 permanent, full-time employees, 32 permanent, part-time employees, and approximately 50 temporary employees in fiscal year 1982. The payroll for these employees in fiscal year 1982 was $4,887,500.

In cooperation with the Department of Labor, the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests provide special employment programs for young people, the elderly, and the disabled. Enrollment in these programs during fiscal year 1982 was 24 people in the Youth Conservation Corps, 64 people in the Young Adult Conservation Corps, and 70 people in the Senior Conservation Service.

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests also had 33 volunteers in fiscal year 1982. These people freely provided their time and energies in programs such as interpretive services, landscape management, and trail maintenance. Forest Service volunteers range from retired couples, to middle-aged working couples, to college student, to members of youth clubs and organizations.

Forest Protection

Fire

Insects/Disease

Law Enforcement

Fire

The Fire program of the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests is both an offensive and defensive tool. Special care is taken to prevent damage to timber, wildlife, soils, and plants because of fire. However, controlled burning is used as a tool in the development of wildlife habitats and management of certain timber species.

Although several hundred wildfires occur on the forests each year, this is not a major problem because wildfires are typically controlled before major damage occurs.

Arson is the cause of 73% of all wildfires on the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests.

One of the greatest dangers from wildfires on the forests is to private homes and property intermingled with National Forest land. Close cooperation with state forestry officials, early detection, good road access, and effective firefighting have prevented extensive fire damage to date.

Prescribed fire is used on both forests under carefully controlled conditions. Properly used, prescribed fire benefits wildlife habitat, controls understory vegetation, reduces fuels build-up, and helps control tree diseases.

About 10,000 acres of prescribed burning is done each year on the forests. Over 80% of this occurs on the Oconee since prescribed burning is generally unacceptable in hardwoods.

Insects/Disease

An objective in managing National Forest lands is the reduction of timber losses from forest insects and diseases. Preventive and suppression measures are specified in management plans and these measures are coordinated with other timber stand treatments.

The Southern Pine Beetle has been the most serious forest pest during the past few years. The most recent infestation began in 1979 and is continuing.

The Oconee National Forest has suffered the most damage from the Southern Pine Beetle with approximately 60 million board feet of timber having been salvaged due to beetle infestation since 1979.

The Southern Pine Beetle is beginning to spread to the Chattahoochee National Forest and is currently infesting pines on the Armuchee, Chattooga, and Tallulah Ranger Districts.

Other insects and disease problems on the forests include fusiform rust, annosus root rot, Littleleaf disease, and the Fall Canker worm. None of these have had a major impact on the forests.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement supports all resources of the forests to insure public safety and fair and legal use of the forest resources.

The Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests are experiencing an increase in crime similar to the rest of society. In fiscal year 1982, 1,213 violations were reported on the forests. Of these cases, 297 were prosecuted with 2 cases dismissed, 295 found guilty, and none found innocent.

$9,665.00 in fines was collected in fiscal year 1982 from uncontested cases. $1,900.00 was also collected in court fines.

Vandalism, theft, illegal firewood collection, poaching, improper use of ORV's, and woods arson are the major crimes committed on the forests.

Law enforcement on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests is a cooperative effort between federal, state, and county officers because Forest Service officials only have authority to enforce federal laws and regulations on National Forest land. State or local laws, and the protection of private property falls under the jurisdiction of state and local authorities.

Law enforcement efforts on the forests are hampered by the limited personnel available to cover the large, dispersed area of the forests.

The Numbers

Acres

Money

Acres

Lands activities on the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests are undertaken in response to public and private needs for land and its resources. This objective is met through the issuance of special use permits, right-of-ways, easements, and landline surveying.

The Chattahoochee National Forest contains 747,221 acres in the following counties:

Banks	655
Catoosa	6
Chattooga	17,860
Dawson	6,722
Fannin	107,173
Floyd	6,491
Gilmer	54,454
Gordon	8,071
Habersham	39,994
Lumpkin	57,738
Murray	50,855
Rabun	148,602
Stephens	22,277
Towns	57,176
Union	95,698
Walker	19,110
White	42,616
Whitfield	11,723

The Oconee National Forest contains 108,828 acres in the following counties:

Greene	26,580
Jasper	26,916
Jones	16,570
Morgan	436
Oconee	112
Oglethorpe	3,768
Putnam	34,446

On the Chattahoochee, forest land is usually found in large, solid blocks on the mountainsides and ridgetops with private land in the valleys.

On the Oconee, forest land occurs in two distinct sections and is intermingled with private property.

Over 750 special use permits were issued on the forests in fiscal year 1982. Most of these were for recreation, water use, or utilities and communications

Money Returned to Counties

The Acts of May 23, 1908, and March 1, 1911, require the Forest Service to return 25% of all its receipts during each fiscal year to the counties in which National Forest lands are located. This money must be used for public schools or roads.

In fiscal year 1982, the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests returned $707,412.64 to twenty-five Georgia counties. Individual county receipts are:

Banks	$ 407.71
Catoosa	3.73
Chattooga	11,116.99
Dawson	4,184.12
Fannin	66,710.05
Floyd	4,040.34
Gilmer	33,895.00
Gordon	5,023.81
Habersham	24,894.34
Lumpkin	36,892.78
Murray	31,654.79
Rabun	92,497.61
Stephens	13,866.36
Towns	35,589.32
Union	59,567.41
Walker	11,895.06
White	26,526.42
Whitfield	7,297.01
Greene	59,179.85
Jasper	59,927.95
Jones	35,939.14
Morgan	970.75
Oconee	249.37
Oglethorpe	8,389.38
Putnam	76,693.35

Gross Receipts by Type of Activity

During fiscal year 1982, the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests made $2,829,650.38. This money was received in the following categories:

Timber	$1,268,688.05
Timber Purchaser Road Credit	678,284.86
KV (reforestation)	524,734.75
Minerals	231,231.41
Recreation Use Fees	98,680.40

Special Use Permits:	
Land uses	17,779.33
Recreation uses	6,075,38
Power uses	966.20
Grazing	3,210.01

Budget

The budget for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests for fiscal year 1982 was $10,110,200. This was distributed as follows:

Fire Management	$ 536,500
Timber Management	1,730,000
Reforestation and Stand Improvement	1,629,900
Range Management	30,200
Minerals Management	56,000
Recreation Management	561,000
Construction and Operation of Recreation Facilities	38,000
Trails Maintenance and Construction	48,000
Wildlife/Fish Management	209,000
Soil/Water Management	210,000
Lands Management	338,000
Engineering Administration	428,800
Road Construction	1,463,100
Human Resource Programs	
Youth Conservation Corps	0
Young Adult Conservation Corps	215,100
Senior Adult Employment	334,800
Cooperative Work:	
Law Enforcment	28,600
Timber	322,600
Cultural	41,000
Wildlife/Fish	9,000
Road Maintenance and Erosion Control	199,500
General Administration	1,681,100

Laws Relating to the Forest Service

Establishment

Naming

Purpose

Management

Other

Establishment

All activities carried on by the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests are authorized by either Congressional Act or executive order. Listed below are some of the major laws which direct the work of the Forest Service.

Creative Act of 1891 - created forest reserves from land that was public domain.

Organic Act of 1897 - replaced the Creative Act.

Act of February 1, 1905 - placed administration of the Nation's forest reserves under the Department of Agriculture.

Weeks Act of 1911 - authorized purchase of private lands to establish National Forests. This allowed the creation of National Forests in the east where there was essentially no public domain.

Naming

Act of March 4, 1907 - changed name from forest reserves to National Forests.

Purpose

Organic Act of 1897 - to improve and protect forests or secure favorable water flows; to furnish a continuous supply of timber for citizens of the United States.

Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act, 1960 - National Forests shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes. This administration must be carried out in a way that provides the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources without impairment of the productivity of the land.

Management

Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA), 1974 - called for a comprehensive assessment of uses, demand for, and supply of renewable resources from the Nation's public and private forests and rangelands; and a program of work to respond to the needs highlighted in the assessment.

National Forest Management Act (NFMA), 1976 - amended section of the 1974 RPA and requires individual land management plans (LMP) from each National Forest as well as the nationwide assessment and program.

Other

Wilderness Act, 1964 - established a wilderness system in the United States.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 1968 - established a system to preserve certain rivers which possess remarkable scenic, recreation, geologic, fish/wildlife, historic, or cultural values.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 1970 - declared a national policy to encourage harmony between man and his environment. Also established the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

Endangered Species Act, 1973 - provides for preservation of habitats of endangered and threatened species.

Eastern Wilderness Act, 1975 - broadened the definition of wilderness so that areas in the eastern United States could be included in the National Wilderness System.

Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II), 1977 - an administrative action that called for an assessment of roadless, primitive areas within the National Forests which have potential as wilderness areas. The assessment was documented in a final environmental impact statement and sent to Congress for action in January, 1979.

Chronology

1905	Forest Service established
1911	Weeks Law passed which allowed establishment of National Forests in the eastern United States
1936	Chattahoochee National Forest proclaimed
1937	The Appalachian Trail (2000 miles) was completed
1950	Smokey Bear becomes the National symbol of fire prevention
1959	Oconee National Forest proclaimed
1967	Brasstown Bald Visitor Center opened atop Georgia's highest point (4,784 feet)
1971	Chattooga Wild and Scenic River established
1971	Woodsy Owl became the National symbol of environmental protection
1975	Cohutta Wilderness and Ellicott Rock Wilderness established
1975	First RPA Assessment and Program presented to Congress
1977	RARE II Wilderness Study began
1979	RARE II findings presented to Congress
1980	Second RPA Assessment and Program presented to Congress
1980	Land Management Planning began on the Chattahoochee-Oconee

Glossary

Acquisition of land - obtaining land ownership rights by donation, purchase, exchange, or condemnation.

Acre-equivalents - the number of acres of forest habitat improved or affected by the installation of various wildlife habitat improvements in an area.

Acre-foot - a water measurement term; equal to the amount of water that would cover an area of 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot.

Air quality class - three broad classifications used to measure air quality for all areas of the country:

Class I - all areas where essentially any degradation of air quality would be considered significant deterioration.

Class II - all areas where moderate degradation over baseline concentrations is allowed.

Class III - all others.

Animal unit month (AUM) - the quantity of forage required by one mature cow with calf for one month.

Aquifer - any geologic formation containing water, especially one that supplies wells, springs, etc.

Basal Area (BA) - the area of the cross section of a tree measured 4.5 feet above the ground; includes the bark.

Board Foot (BF) - a unit of timber measurement equaling the amount of wood contained in an unfinished board 1" thick, 12" long, and 12" wide. Normally measured in thousands (MBF) or millions (MMBF).

Bottomland hardwood - a forest type consisting of such species as sweetgum, yellow poplar, ash, hickory, red oaks, white oaks, blackgum, elm, sugarberry, cottonwood, river birch, willow, and sycamore.

Browse - young twigs, leaves, and tender shoots of plants, shrubs, or trees; eaten by animals.

Cable logging - a term for any system that involves the transport of harvested trees by means of steel cables; the cables may lift the trees partially or wholly off the ground.

Canopy - the cover of green leaves and branches formed by the tops of the tallest trees in a stand or forest.

CCF - Cunit; a unit of timber measurement.

CEQ - Council on Environmental Quality.

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations; the rules that outline how various laws and administrative actions should be implemented.

Clearcut - a method of timber harvesting that removes all merchantable trees on an area at one time. This is an even-aged system of timber harvesting.

Climax - the culmination of a plant's life cycle when the vegetation has reached a highly stable condition.

Commercial forest - forest land capable of producing merchantable timber.

Commercial fuelwood sales - when individuals or companies purchase and harvest fuelwood from the National Forest in order to resell the fuelwood for a profit.

Common variety minerals - deposits such as sand, stone, gravel, cinders, clay, and petrified wood which do not possess a distinct, special economic value.

Conservation - Wise use of renewable resources; as opposed to preservation which means to keep in an unaltered state.

Cord - a unit of measurement for stacked, round wood based on external dimensions; generally, a full cord is a 4' x 4' x 8' stack.

Cove hardwood - a forest type consisting of yellow poplar (45%), red oaks (20%), white oaks (20%), other hardwoods (10%), and white pine (5%).

Critical habitat - habitat which is essential to endangered or threatened species; must be determined by either the Secretary of Interior or Agriculture.

Cubic foot - a unit of measure reflecting a piece of wood 12" long, 12" wide, and 12" thick.

Cultural resources - those sites, artifacts, structures, written records, or features which remain from past human activity.

Cunit (CCF) - equivalent to 100 cubic feet of solid wood.

Cutting cycle - the planned, recurring lapse of time between successive timber harvests in a specific stand.

Daylighting - the practice of cutting back edges of roads or trails by removing shrub and tree growth.

DBRU - Drainage Basin Response Unit.

Den trees - a rain-proof, weather-tight cavity in a tree which is utilized by wildlife.

Developed recreation - use of a relatively small, distinctly defined area where facilities are provided for concentrated public use. For example, campgrounds with restroom facilities, swim beaches, boat ramps, picnic areas with tables and grills.

Dispersed recreation - that portion of outdoor forest recreation which occurs outside of developed sites.

Diversity - the distribution and abundance of different types of plant and animal communities and species.

Drainage - the total area that contributes to the flow of a stream; often used interchangeably with watershed.

Drainage Basin Response Unit (DBRU) - groups of watersheds or drainage basins that have similar physical characteristics and react the same to forest management practices.

Early successional species - those plant or animal species found in a young forest; deer, turkey, rabbits.

Ecosystem - an association of interactive organisms and their environment.

Ecological management unit (EMU) - a grouping of soils that have similar characteristics

EMU erosion hazard - a measure of the erosion hazard of the soils in an EMU. These fall in three categories:

Erosion Hazard I - reflects a slight to moderate erosion hazard.

Erosion Hazard II - reflects a high erosion hazard.

Erosion Hazard III - reflects soils that have a slight to moderate hazard on slopes less than 45 degrees and high hazard on slopes greater than 45 degrees.

Endangered species - any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range; must be designated as endangered in the Federal Register.

Environment - all the conditions, circumstances, and influences surrounding and affecting the development of an organism or group of organisms.

Environmental assessment - the evaluation of the effects of a proposed project on the environment.

Environmental impact statement - a disclosure document revealing the environmental effects of a proposed action; required for major federal actions under Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act and is released to the public and other agencies for comment.

Ephemeral stream - a stream, or portion of a stream, that flows only in direct response to precipitation.

Erosion - the process by which the surface of the earth is worn away; usually by water or wind.

Essential habitat - habitat where threatened and endangered species occur but which has not been declared as critical habitat.

Even-aged silvicultural system - the actions that result in timber stands in which trees of essentially the same age grow together. Clearcutting, shelterwood cutting, and seedtree cutting are even-aged silvicultural methods.

Featured species - selected wildlife species whose habitat requirements guide wildlife management practices.

Firewood - see fuelwood.

Fisheries habitat - streams, lakes, and reservoirs that support fish.

Floodplain - the land adjacent to a river or lake which is covered with water when the stream overflows its banks at flood stage.

Forage - all browse and nonwoody plants that are available to livestock or game animals for food.

Forest - an area maintained for the production of timber and other forest products; an area maintained under woody vegetation for indirect benefits such as protection of watershed, recreation, or wildlife habitat.

Forest land - land at least 16% stocked by forest trees or land formerly having had such cover and not currently developed for nonforest use.

Fuel break - any natural or constructed barrier used to segregate, stop, and control the spread of a fire; provides a control line from which to work.

Fuels - both living and dead vegetative materials consumable by fire.

Fuelwood - round, split, or sawed wood that is generally refuse material and can be cut into short lengths for burning.

Further planning area - areas of land identified during the RARE II process as having potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness System but which need more study before a final recommendation is made to Congress.

Game species - any species of wildlife or fish for which seasons and bag limits have been set and which are normally harvested by hunters, trappers, and fishermen.

Grazing - consumption of range or pasture forage by animals.

Grazing capacity - the maximum stocking rate possible without causing damage to vegetation or related resources.

Grazing permit - official, written permission to graze a specified number, kind, and class of livestock for a specific period of time on a defined range allotment.

Ground water - water beneath the surface of the ground.

Group selection - a modification of selection cutting in which trees are removed in small groups.

Helicopter logging - a term used to identify logging methods which utilize helicopters to transport logs from stump to loading area.

Hydrology - the science of water; deals with the occurrence, circulation, distribution, and properties of the earth's water.

Instream flow - the amount of water passing a given point at a given time.

Integrated pest management - activities undertaken to control insect and disease infestations in tree stands.

Intermediate cutting - the removal of trees from a stand between the time of origin and the final harvest.

Intermittent stream - a stream which flows only during wet seasons of the year.

Interpretive services - visitor information designed to help visitors understand, appreciate, and enjoy their visit to the forests.

Intolerance - the inability of a tree to grow in the shade of, and in competition with, other trees.

Landing - any place where timber is gathered for further transport; commonly with a change in transport method.

Landline - legal identification and accurate location of National Forest property boundary.

Late successional species - those plant or animal species found in an older forest; bear, some woodpeckers.

Leaseable minerals - coal, oil, gas, phosphate, sodium, potassium, sulpher, and geothermal steam.

Lease - a contract which grants the right to someone other than the landowner to search for and produce leaseable minerals; requires an agreed rental, bonus, and/or royalty in exchange for this right; is subject to terms, conditions, and limitations specified in the lease.

Logging (conventional) - a term used to identify methods used to move harvested trees from stump to mill.

Management indicator species (MIS) - a wildlife management scheme which assumes that by providing for the well-being of certain species all other species will be provided for.

Mature timber - the stage at which a stand of trees best fulfills the purpose for which it was grown.

Mineral entry - the filing of a mining claim for public land to obtain the right to any minerals the land may contain.

Mineral exploration - the search for minerals on lands open to mineral entry.

Mineral soil - weathered rock materials without any vegetative cover.

Mining claims - the portion of public land available for mining in which the locator of minerals has exclusive possession of those minerals.

MIS - management indicator species.

Mixed upland hardwoods - a forest type consisting of pines: shortleaf, pitch, loblolly (50%), and hardwoods: red oak, white oak, other (50%).

Mortality - dead or dying trees resulting from forest fire, insect, disease, or climatic factors.

Multiple use - the management of all the various renewable surface resources of the National Forests.

National Recreation Trails - trails designated by the Secretary of Agriculture or Interior as part of the National system; trails designed to provide outdoor recreation in places reasonably accessible to urban areas.

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act.

NFMA - National Forest Management Act.

Non-declining even-flow (or yield) - a level of timber production planned so that the sale and harvest for any future decade is equal to or greater than the sale and harvest for the preceding decade.

Non-game species - all wild animals not subject to harvesting by hunting, fishing, or trapping.

Off-road vehicle (ORV) - any vehicle capable of being operated off an established road or trail; typically, four-wheel drive vehicles or trail bikes.

Outstanding mineral rights - refers to those instances where the minerals underneath federal land were severed prior to the transaction in which the Government acquired the land. Removal or extraction of these minerals must be allowed in accordance with the document severing the minerals from the surface.

Overstory - that portion of trees in a multi-layered forest stand which provide the upper crown cover.

PAOT - persons at one time.

Perennial stream - a stream that flows throughout the year.

Persons at one time (PAOT) - a recreation capacity measurement.

Person-year - approximately 2,000 working hours.

Physiographic region - an area of similar geologic structure and climate that has had a similar geomorphic history.

Precommercial thinning - the selective felling, deadening, or removal of trees in a young stand to accelerate growth of the remaining trees, maintain a specific stocking ratio, or improve the quality of the trees that remain.

Prescribed fired - introduction of fire under controlled conditions to dispose of slash or fuels; control unwanted vegetation; or stimulate grasses, shrubs, or trees; for range, wildlife, recreation, or timber management purposes.

Prescription - management practices selected and scheduled for application on a specific area.

Preservation - to keep in an unaltered state; as opposed to conservation which means wise use of renewable resources.

Presuppression - activities carried out in advance of fire occurrences to ensure effective fire suppression.

Proclamation boundary - the outer boundary established by the Presidential proclamation that originally set up the National Forests. Less than 50% of the land within the proclamation boundary of the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests is actually owned by the Forest Service.

Productive deferred - capable forest land which has been legislatively or administratively designated for wilderness study or possible addition to the Wilderness System.

Productive reserved - capable forest land which has been legislatively or administratively withdrawn from timber production on a permanent basis.

Productivity class - a classification of the capacity of a given piece of land for timber growth. There are four classes:

Class I - lands capable of producing 120 cubic feet/acre/year.
Class II - land capable of producing 85-119 cubic feet/acre/year.
Class III - land capable of producing 50-84 cubic feet/acre/year.
Class IV - land capable of producing 20-49 cubic feet/acre/year.

Prospecting permit - a contract giving someone other than the landowner the right to search for mineral materials.

Pulpwood - wood cut and prepared primarily for manufacture into wood pulp; for paper and other pulp products.

RARE II - Roadless Area Review and Evaluation.

Recreation - leisure time activity such as swimming, picnicking, camping, boating, hunting, and fishing.

Recreation Visitor Day (RVD) - a unit for measuring recreation activities which equals 12 visitor hours; may consist of one person for 12 hours, 12 persons for 1 hour, or any equivalent combination.

Regneration - the renewal of a tree crop by natural or artificial means.

Regeneration cutting - any removal of trees intended to assist regeneration already present or to make regeneration possible.

Regulated forest - a forest having an ideal distribution of age classes and where control of timber harvests is in accordance with tree growth and other management decisions.

Release and weed - all work done to free desirable trees from competition with other trees and vegetation; just as a gardener cuts out weeds in order to allow her crop to grow.

Removal or final cut - the cut which removes the last seed bearers of a seedtree or shelterwood cutting after the new stand of trees is established.

Research Natural Area (RNA) - an area set aside specifically to preserve a representative sample of an ecological community.

Reserved mineral rights - those cases where the minerals were severed from the surface in the transaction in which the Government acquired the land; subject to the rules and regulations in effect at the time of the transaction.

Revegetation - the re-establisment and development of a plant cover; done naturally or artificially.

Riparian areas - geographically delineated areas with distinctive resource values and characteristics; comprised of aquatic and riparian ecosystems, 100-year floodplains, and wetlands.

RNA - Research Natural Area.

Road - these are several types on the forests; each built to different standards depending on its use:

- Arterial - provides service to large land areas and usually connects with public highways or other arterial roads to form a network of primary travel routes.
- Collector - serves smaller land areas and usually connects to arterial roads or public highways.
- Local - connects terminal facilities with collector, arterial, or public roads.
- Primitive - roads constructed with no regard for grade control or designed drainage; sometimes merely by repeated driving over an area.
- Public - roads across National Forest land which were in place when these lands were acquired by the Forest Service; may or may not be maintained.

Rotation - the planned number of years between the regeneration of a stand and its final cutting.

Roundwood - timber and fuelwood prepared in the round state; ie., logs, transmission poles.

RPA - Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act.

Runoff - the total stream discharge of water from a watershed; includes surface and subsurface flow but not ground water; usually expressed in acre-feet.

RVD - Recreation Visitor Day.

Salvage - the harvesting of trees that are dead, dying, or deteriorating; before the timber becomes worthless.

Sawtimber - trees suitable in size and quality for producing logs that can be processed into lumber.

Sediment - solid material, both mineral and organic, that is in suspension, is being transported, or has been moved from its original site by air, water, gravity, or ice.

Seedtree cutting - a timber harvesting method that removes all merchantable trees in a stand in a single cut except a few selected to be retained as seed bearers; an even-aged method; not applicable in hardwood stands.

Selection cutting - the annual or periodic removal of trees (particularly the mature), individually or in small groups, from an uneven-aged forest.

Shelterwood cutting - a method of harvesting timber whereby all merchantable trees in a stand are removed in a single cut except for a selected group that remain as a partial canopy to protect (shelter) the new trees as they grow. The older trees are later removed in a series of two or more cuttings when the new stand is established; an even-aged system.

Silviculture - the art and science of controlling forest establishment, composition, and growth.

Site preparation - the preparation of the ground prior to reforestation; various treatments are used including mechanical furrowing, prescribed fire, and others.

Site productivity - a measure of the relative productive capacity of a site.

Skidding - a method of moving logs from stump by dragging them to the log landing.

Skid trails - a trail through the woods created by logs being dragged from the stump to the log landing.

Slash - the residue left on the ground after felling and other silvicultural operations; or the residue left as a result of a storm, fire, girdling, or poisoning.

Snag - a standing dead tree from which the leaves and most of the branches have fallen.

Soil productivity - the capacity of a soil to produce a specific crop under defined levels of management.

Special-use permits - permits, memoranda of understanding, and granting of easments authorizing the occupancy and use of land in exchange for a fee.

Stocking - the degree of occupancy of land by trees; measured by basal area and/or number of trees.

Successional stage - a recognizable stage in a plant community's life cycle: grass - forb - shrub seedling - pole sapling - immature - mature - old growth.

Sustained yield - the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources without impairment of the productivity of the land.

System-open roads - roads which are developed and operated for long-term needs; generally remain open except for seasonal closures to prevent damage due to bad weather.

System-closed roads - roads developed and operated for long-term needs; open periodically and closed for more than one year between periods of use; generally built to access logging sites and closed once logging is completed.

Thinning - a cut made to harvest excess or unwanted trees in an immature stand; done primarily to accelerate or maintain the rate of growth of the remaining trees.

Threatened species - any species so listed in the Federal Register and which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future.

Timber - a general term for the major woody growth of vegetation in a forest area.

Timber base - the lands within the forest capable, available, and suitable for timber production.

Timber production - the growing, tending, harvesting, and regeneration of regulated crops of industrial wood. Industrial wood includes logs, bolts, or other roundwood.

Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) - a loose term comprising all intermediate cuttings made to improve the composition, constitution, condition, and increment of a timber stand.

Tolerance - the ability of a tree to grow satisfactorily in the shade of, and in competition with, other trees.

Topography - the configuration of a land surface including the relief, elevation, and position of its natural and manmade features.

Trailheads - the parking, signing, and other facilities available at the terminus of a trail.

Transpiration - to emit water vaper through the surface of tree and plant leaves.

TSI - Timber Stand Improvement.

Type conversion - to change from one tree species to another.

Understory - the trees and other vegetation growing under a more or less continuous cover of branches and foliage.

Uneven-aged silviculture - the actions that result in forests in which trees of many ages grow together.

Viable population - population of plants or animals of sufficient numbers to assure perpetuation of the species.

Viewshed - the total landscape seen from part of a travel route, use area, or water body.

Visual Quality Objectives (VQO) - a set of measureable goals for the management of forest visual resources. The goals are:

Preservation - provides for only naturally-occurring changes.

Retention - means man's activities are not evident to the casual forest visitor.

Partial retention - means man's activities may be evident but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

Modification - means man's activities may dominate the landscape but must, at the same time, utilize naturally established form, line, color, and texture.

Maximum modification - means man's activities may dominate the landscape but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background.

Upland hardwood - a forest type consisting of red oaks (20%), white oaks (20%), mixed oaks (20%), other hardwoods (30%), and yellow pines (10%). Sometimes called an oak-hickory forest.

Warm-water fishery - stream and lake waters which support fish with a maximum summer temperature tolerance of about 80 degrees. Bluegill, perch, and largemouth bass are examples.

Water quality index - a method used for monitoring the quality of water; includes measures of conductivity, turbidity (dirtiness), PH factor, nitrate nitrogen, phosphate, dissolved oxygen, and temperature.

Water yield - the measured output of the forests' streams expressed in acre-feet.

Watershed - the total area above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the flow at that point.

Wetlands - areas that are inundated by surface or ground water sufficient to support vegetation or acquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, mud flats, and natural ponds.

White pine - a forest type consisting of white pine (65%), yellow pine (10%), red oaks (10%), white oaks (10%) and other hardwoods (5%).

Wilderness - an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man; where man is a visitor who does not remain.

Wildfire - any fire other than one intentionally set for management purposes.

Wildlife - all nondomesticated mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians living in a natural environment.

Wildlife habitat improvement (WHI) - the manipulation or maintenance of vegetation to yield habitat suitable for designated wildlife species.

Yarding - operations used to move logs from stump to the point where logs are loaded for transport to mill.

Yellow pine - a forest type consisting of yellow pines (75%), white oaks (5%), red oaks (5%), and other hardwoods (15%).